

Housing Planning

Winter 2005



Housing demand in Southern California greatly exceeds supply. On top of the availability issue is the affordability issue. The difficulty of creating new housing near existing jobs and new jobs near existing housing only adds to the challenges facing local planners .



A Critical Issue

Housing is a critical issue affecting our future well-being and economic competitiveness. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) works closely with local governments help to increase housing supply and availability throughout the region.

Housing Data and Analysis Helps Local Planning Efforts

SCAG plays a leadership role in collecting, analyzing, and presenting housing planning data. SCAG's website, Housing Southern Californians, compiles reports and data sets aimed at assisting local governments in meeting housing requirements and planning for a sustainable future.

Forum for Policy Dialogues and Policy Development

SCAG, due to the vision and dedication of its members, is a national leader in housing policy development. In its role as the region's Council of Governments, representing six counties and 187 cities, SCAG is able to convene and facilitate a forum for policy dialogues. Further, SCAG is charged under State law with performing the allocation of regional housing needs shares once every five years. Local governments and others in the region look to SCAG to provide guidance and direction on this and other housing issues.

Annual Summits Offer Information & Insights

Every year, SCAG convenes the Regional Housing Summit, a conference bringing together local elected officials, policy makers and housing experts to focus on the many issues facing the housing situation in Southern California. In the past, these well attended summits have featured high profile speakers including former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros, members of the State Legislature, leading developers and top financiers.

Advocacy Efforts Support Housing Policy Reforms

As policies are formulated, SCAG serves as an advocate for its member's positions in Sacramento. Since 2001, SCAG has participated on task forces and working groups at the State level in order to seek needed reforms to the State Housing Element law. The Regional Council approved its Housing Element Reform Priorities in January 2002, calling for the State to:

- 1) coordinate housing planning with the Regional Transportation Plan,
- 2) address inconsistencies in State policy,
- 3) recognize circumstances affecting local governments, and
- 4) create incentives for adding housing.

For more information, contact Jacob Lieb at 213.236.1921 or lieb@scag.ca.gov.

Or visit this Web Site:

www.scag.ca.gov/comdev.htm

Resolving Regional Challenges

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